

*[English]***Production/Consumption of Gold**

480. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production and consumption of gold in the country during the last three years in terms of quantum and value and percentage increase/decrease;

(b) the production targets for 1997-98 and additional investment in ongoing/new projects—both in public sector and private sector;

(c) whether the Government have proposed to allow private/foreign participation in Gold Mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with proposals received/cleared; and

(e) the details of new Gold reserves located in the country by GSI and steps taken/proposed to Mine these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The details of the estimated production of gold in the country during the last three years in terms of quantum, value and percentage increase/decrease is indicated below:-

Year	Gold Production Quantity (Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)	Increase/ Decrease in Quantity (in Percentage)
1994-95	2369	116	+14
1995-96	2036	103	-14
1996-97	2904	145	+43

As far as consumption of gold in India is concerned, no official data is available. However, a very rough estimate suggests that the demand for gold in India is about 600 Tonnes per annum.

(b) At present, gold is produced primarily in the Public Sector. The target of gold production for 1997-98 is 3140 Kgs. The approved Plan outlay for 1997-98 for M/s. Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) in this regard is Rs. 6 crores. To augment the gold production as a byproduct by M/s. Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), an investment of Rs. 5 crores has been proposed in the IXth Five Year Plan. M/s. Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML), a Karnataka State Government Undertaking engaged in production of gold, has a plan to increase gold production to 3600 Kgs. per annum.

(c) Under the National Mineral Policy, 1993, 13 minerals including Gold which were hitherto reserved for exploitation by the public sector were also thrown open for private sector participation, both domestic and foreign. Now, any company incorporated in India, is eligible for grant

of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease for exploration/exploitation of Gold in the Country. Further, Government have issued guidelines for grant of Prospecting Licence for area larger than 25 square kilometer in cases involving aerial survey.

(d) So far, the following two proposals have been approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB):

(i) Hindustan Zinc Limited & BHP Minerals, Australia with 60% foreign equity for prospecting of Gold, among other base metals.

(ii) Australian India Resources N.L., Australia for 100% subsidiary unit for exploration/exploitation of Gold. No Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease has been granted to these Companies so far.

(e) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has located new deposits of gold in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The details are as follows:-

**Andhra Pradesh:-**(i) Dona Temple Block, Kurnool District, (ii) Kotnapalle Block, Anantpur District, (iii) Kudithanpalle Block, Chittoor District.

**Bihar:-**(i) Sonapet Valley and Tamar Porapahar in Babikundi and Taramba area.

**Karnataka:-**Hira-Buddini, Raichur District, (ii) Chinmulgund, Dharwar District, (iii) Nagavi, Dharwar District, (iv) Ajjanhalli West Block, Tumkur District, (v) G.R. Halli, South Block, Chitradurga District.

**Kerala:-**(i) Kappil Sector, Mallapuram District.

**Madhya Pradesh:-**(i) Gurharpahar West, Sidhi District.

**Maharashtra:-**(i) Paraspro West Block, Nagpur District.

**Rajasthan:-**(i) Anantpur-Bhukia, Banswara District.

**Uttar Pradesh:-**(i) Gurharpahar area, Sidhi Belt, Sonbhadra District.

Any exploration/exploitation agency is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules made thereunder and in the light of the National Mineral Policy, 1993 announced by the Government of India.

**Development of Habib-Ganj Railway Station**

5158. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of the Habibganj railway station (Central Railway in Madhya Pradesh) is being impeded because the State Government has not been able to remove the 'Jhuggis' and other encroachments on the land of the railway station; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 has been taken to remove these encroachments.

#### **Illegal Occupation of Railway Quarters**

5159. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the railway quarters in S.C. Railway at Secunderabad have been illegally let out/leased out depriving genuine claimants;

(b) if so, the action taken by the authorities including eviction of quarters;

(c) the reasons for serving eviction notices concentrated only in lower type of quarters and higher type of quarters located in Secunderabad have been left out selectively;

(d) the number of quarters are occupied by non-railway employees including police personnel in the city and the action has been taken to evict them for allotting the quarters to genuine railway employees who are waiting for a long period.

(e) whether any special cell has been created to expedite the cases of eviction and to monitor the progress; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. However, a few cases of subletting of railway quarters by railway officials have been noted during the checks conducted by vigilance.

(b) Action under D&AR has been initiated against the delinquent officials besides cancellation of their allotments.

(c) Eviction proceedings have been initiated in all cases where subletting has been detected without exception.

(d) Out of 93 cases of subletting noted during January-March, 1997, 54 quarters were sublet to outsiders. Allotment of these quarters has been cancelled and the same are being allotted to the next eligible employees. The quarters under the occupation of the police personnel are under the administrative control of the State Police since a few decades and their allotments are controlled by them.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of Terminal Station at Tala**

5160. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4159 on December 19, 1996 and state:

#### **QUESTION**

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target to set up Terminal Station at Tala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The proposal of additional facilities at Tala has been approved as "Material Modifications" to the existing estimate of Calcutta Circular Railway. The project is likely to be completed by September 1999, depending on the availability of funds.

#### **Study on Travelling**

5161. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made or a committee has been appointed to look into people's preference for Road travel although Railway travel is cheaper and eco-friendly; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such preferences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Recruitment of RPF Personnel**

5162. SHRI RAM SAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had entrusted the task of undertaking probe into a large number of complaints alleging that some former officials allegedly recruited RPF personnel on consideration of bribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure non-recurrence of the irregularities and corruptions in the recruitment of RPF in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.